

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and Receipt of the certified copy of the priority documents in the Official Action. Upon entry of the present amendment, claim 1 will have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 7, and claim 7 will have been canceled. Claims 1-6 and 8 remain pending in the present application.

The Examiner has made a non-statutory double-patenting rejection of all pending claims (*i.e.*, claims 1-8) in view of claims 1-11 of parent U.S. Patent No. 6,714,235. Applicant notes that submitting a terminal disclaimer concurrently herewith would be premature, since all of the claims of the present application have not yet been indicated as otherwise allowable. Once all the claims of the present application have been indicated to be otherwise allowable, Applicant will then consider submitting such a terminal disclaimer.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,243,416 to NAKAZAWA in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,877,802 to TAKAHASHI et al. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner has found that NAKAZAWA discloses the invention according to claim 1 except for the claimed switching control processor that suspends output of the video signals for a predetermined period while the switched synchronizing signals are output. However, the Examiner has found that TAKAHASHI discloses this feature, and concludes that it would have been obvious to include this

feature into the invention of NAKAZAWA.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection, and submits that the applied references are markedly different from the present invention as claimed. As discussed *supra*, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 7 (which has not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103), which should not be taken as an acquiescence by Applicant as to the propriety of the rejection. Further, Applicant expressly reserves the right to submit claims of a related scope in another application. Thus, the cancellation of the claim in the present application is without prejudice.

Specifically, any proper combination of NAKAZAWA and TAKAHASHI does not disclose at least the claimed switching control processor that drives a video signal switching processor and a synchronizing signal switching processor, and suspends output of video signals for a predetermined period while the switched synchronizing signals are output, the predetermined period being longer than the time required for the synchronizing signal to synchronize with a peripheral device.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as each and every pending claim of the present application, meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the allowance of each and every pending claim in the present application.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone, or in any proper combination thereof, discloses or suggests the present invention, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Applicant notes that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and with respect to the features of claim 7 incorporated into claim 1, should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between this claim prior to the present amendment and the amended claim. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

P24397.A02

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hideo SUGIMOTO



William S. Boshnick  
Reg. No. 44,550

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Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191